(vi) (a) Fifty-sixth Annual Report and Accounts of the HMT Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1454/15/09]

Accounts (1999-2000), (2000-01), (2001-02), (2002-03), (2003-04), (2004-05), (2005-06), (2006-07) of the Indian Council of World Affairs and related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SHASHI THAROOR): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Papers:

(i) Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), for the year 1999-2000 and the Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), for the year 2000-01 and the Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), for the year 2001-02 and the Audit Report thereon.

(iv) Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), for the year 2002-03 and the Audit Report thereon.

(v) Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), for the year 2003-04 and the Audit Report thereon.

(vi) Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), for the year 2004-05 and the Audit Report thereon.

(vii) Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), for the year 2005-06 and the Audit Report thereon.

(viii) Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), for the year 2006-07 and the Audit Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1428/15/09]

I. **Report and Accounts (2008-09) of the Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati and related papers**

II. **Report and Accounts (2006-07) and (2007-08) of the NPCC, New Delhi and related papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): Sir, I lay on the Table:

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Report and Accounts of the Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati, for the year 2008-09, together with the Auditors Report on the Accounts, under Section- 21 of the Brahmaputra Board Act, 1980. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1685/15/09]

11. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) (a) Fiftieth Annual Report and Accounts of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC), New Delhi, for the year 2006-07, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1686/15/09]

(ii) (a) Fifty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC), New Delhi, for the year 2007-08, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 1687/15/09]

Written Answer to Starred and Unstarred Questions set for the 21st December, 2009*

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Amendment in MMDR Act

*441. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act for speedy and time bound development of mineral resources available in the States;

(b) whether Government proposes to empower the State Governments by providing more power by deleting parts 'A' and 'C' of Schedule-I of the Act; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) A new draft Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act) has been circulated to all the stakeholders including State Governments, Industry and concerned Ministries/Departments in July 2009 for comments, and uploaded on Website of Ministry.

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*The sitting of the Rajya Sabha on Monday, the 21st December, 2009 was adjourned on account of the passing away of Shri Suryakantabhai Acharya, a sitting member. Answers to Questions put down in the list for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Tuesday, the 22nd December, 2009.